WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

112- Outliested

- 1. A dermal agent for preventing or treating acne,

 (A) comprising a therapeutically effective amount of an ascorbic acid derivative which liberates ascorbic acid in vivo, or a salt thereof and a zinc salt compound or (B) comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a zinc salt of said ascorbic acid derivative.
- 2. An antibacterial dermal agent (A) comprising a therapeutically effective amount of an ascorbic acid derivative which liberates ascorbic acid in vivo, or a salt thereof and a zinc salt compound or (B) comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a zinc salt of said ascorbic acid derivative.
- 3. A dermal agent having inhibitory effect on growth of *Propionibacterium*, (A) comprising a therapeutically effective amount of an ascorbic acid derivative which liberates ascorbic acid in vivo, or a salt thereof and a zinc salt compound or (B) comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a zinc salt of said ascorbic acid derivative.
 - 4. A dermal agent having inhibitory effect on growth

of Staphylococcus, (A) comprising a therapeutically effective amount of an ascorbic acid derivative which liberates ascorbic acid in vivo, or a salt thereof and a zinc salt compound or (B) comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a zinc salt of said ascorbic acid derivative.

- 5. A dermal agent (A) comprising a therapeutically effective amount of an ascorbic acid derivative which liberates ascorbic acid in vivo, or a salt thereof and a zinc salt compound or (B) comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a zinc salt of said ascorbic acid derivative, said dermal agent having inhibitory activity against lipase derived from mircoorganisms.
- 6. A dermal agent (A) comprising a therapeutically effective amount of an ascorbic acid derivative which liberates ascorbic acid in vivo, or a salt thereof and a zinc salt compound or (B) comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a zinc salt of said ascorbic acid derivative, said dermal agent having inhibitory activity against hyaluronidase derived from mircoorganisms.
- 7. The dermal agent as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the ascorbic acid derivative which liberates ascorbic acid in vivo is a compound represented by the

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following formula (1): R_1 R_2 R_4 R_4 R_1 R_2

wherein R1 and \mathbb{R}^2 each represents a hydroxyl group, acid group, a pyrophosphoric acid group, phosphoric triphosphoric acid group, a polyphosphoric acid group, an Oglucosyl group, a sulfuric acid group, or an acyloxy group which may contain a branched or unsaturated bond, R3 and R4 each represents a hydroxyl group, a phosphoric acid group, a pyrophosphoric acid group, a triphosphoric acid group, a polyphosphoric acid group, an O-glucosyl group, a sulfuric acid group, an acyloxy group which may contain a branched or unsaturated bond, an alkyloxy group which may contain a branched or unsaturated bond, or a hydroxyalkyloxy group, and R³ and R⁴ may be bonded as an acetal or ketal to the same carbon atom through an oxygen atom, provided that R1 and R2 are not a hydroxyl group at the same time.

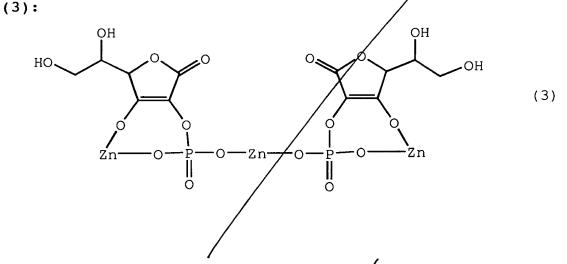
8. The dermal agent as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the salt of an ascorbic acid derivative which liberates ascorbic acid in vivo is a salt of ascorbic acid-

2-phosphate represented by the following formula (2):

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9. The dermal agent as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the zinc salt of an ascorbic acid derivative which liberates ascorbic acid in vivo is ascorbic acid-2-phosphate zinc salt represented by the following formula



- 10. The dermal agent as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the ascorbic acid derivative which liberates ascorbic acid in vivo is ascorbic acid/2-0-glucoside.
 - 11. A poultice comprising a hydrophilic resin and the

dermal agent described in any one of claims 1 to 6 held therein.

- 12. The poultice as claimed in claim 11, wherein the hydrophilic resin is a polymer compound selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid polymers, N-vinylcarboxylic acid amide polymers, polyvinyl alcohols and acrylamide polymers.
- 13. The poultice as claimed in claim 12, wherein the N-vinylcarboxylic acid amide polymer is obtained by copolymerizing N-vinylacetamide and a copolymerizable compound having an ethylenic double bond in water.
- 14. A composition comprising tretinoin and an ascorbic acid derivative or a salt thereof, as described in any one of claims 1 to 6 in combination with tretinoin.
- 15. A method for relieving irritation of tretinoin, comprising applying to the skin the dermal agent described in any one of claims 1 to 6 in combination with tretinoin.

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